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February 27, 1997 LB 124

And I would ask for your support of this amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Discussion on the Lynch amendment. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes. Just a question, Senator Lynch, make sure I understand the amendment. I was a little concerned seeing this stricken from the bill, but, as I understand it, the cost of representing the membership...or all employees in a given business, already includes this specific, so we don't want to assess an individual a specific fee, because that fee is already being covered under the broader charges of the...what the union is charging the nonmembers to administer the labor contract. Is that correct?

SENATOR LYNCH: That's right.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay. Okay, yeah. Now that I understand the amendment, I think the amendment is fine. I will support the amendment. I'd also support the bill. And there are some people I know who I visited with who thought that because this bill and the previous bill dealing with hiring back injured workers kind of came out of the same committee, they're supported by some of the same people, that they're two of the same bills, and if you're against that other one, you also ought to be against this one. I don't think that's true at all. I was not a supporter, did not vote for the mandatory rehire provision in the previous bill. I do, however, think that LB 124 is just simply a matter of basic fairness. A union is, in effect, a business. I know that sounds like an oxymoron, but it is true. A union is a business. That union is in the business of selling services to its members. The federal law requires the union not only to give services to its members, but to its nonmembers. And all this bill does is give that union an ability to recover the cost of providing those services. I think it's analogous to a situation, and this may seem a little extreme, but I do think there's an analogy here. Let's just assume that all of the residents of Hooper, Nebraska, belong to Senator Janssen's...get all of their groceries from Senator Janssen's grocery store. A good idea, right? You're not going to like this as it goes on a little further though, the analogy gets developed. And let's assume that three-fourths of the